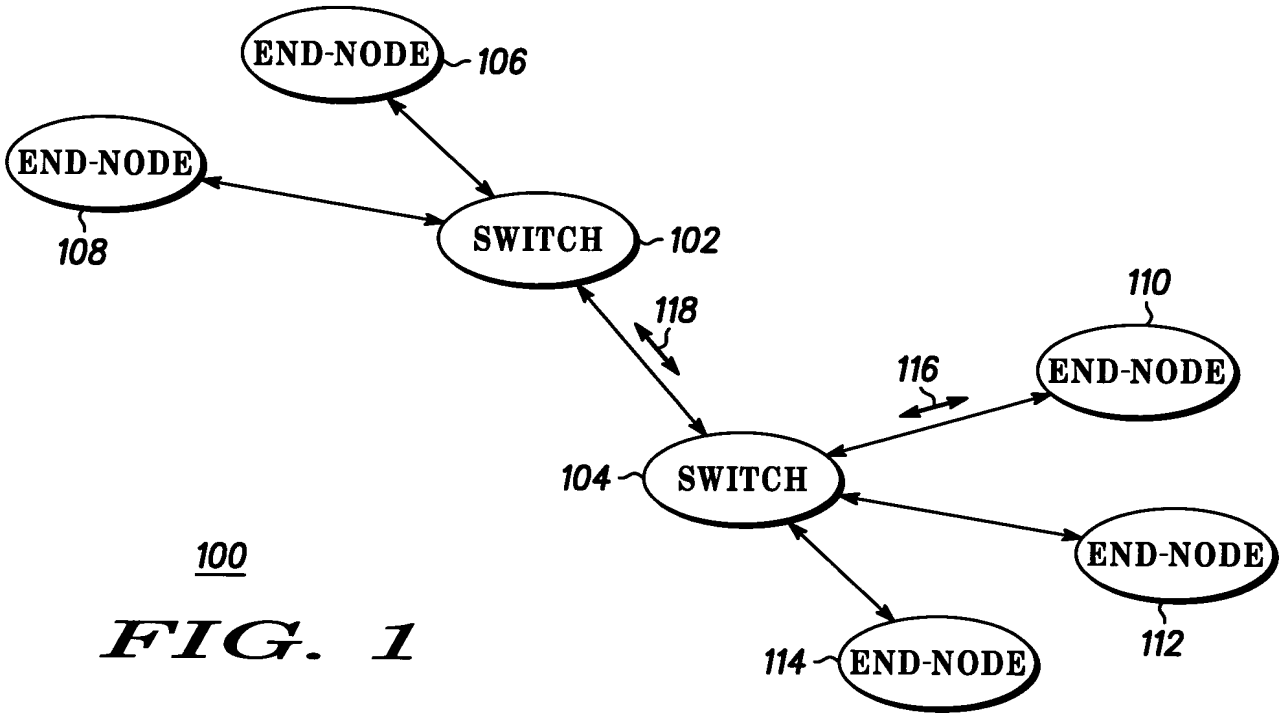

END-NODE
106
END-NODE
108
SWITCH
102
118
110
116
END-NODE
104
SWITCH
END-NODE
112
114
END-NODE
100

FIG. 1

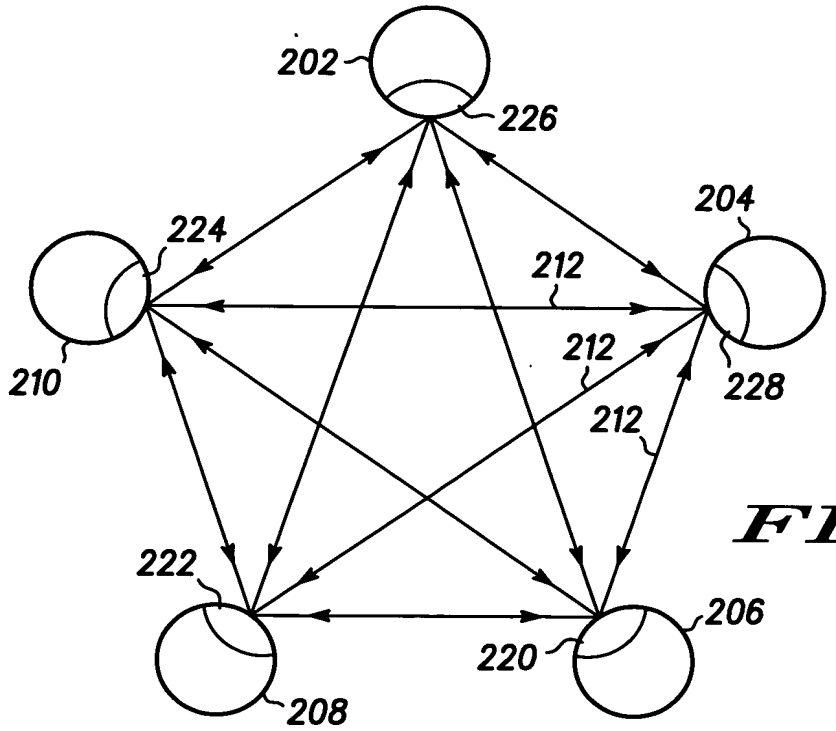
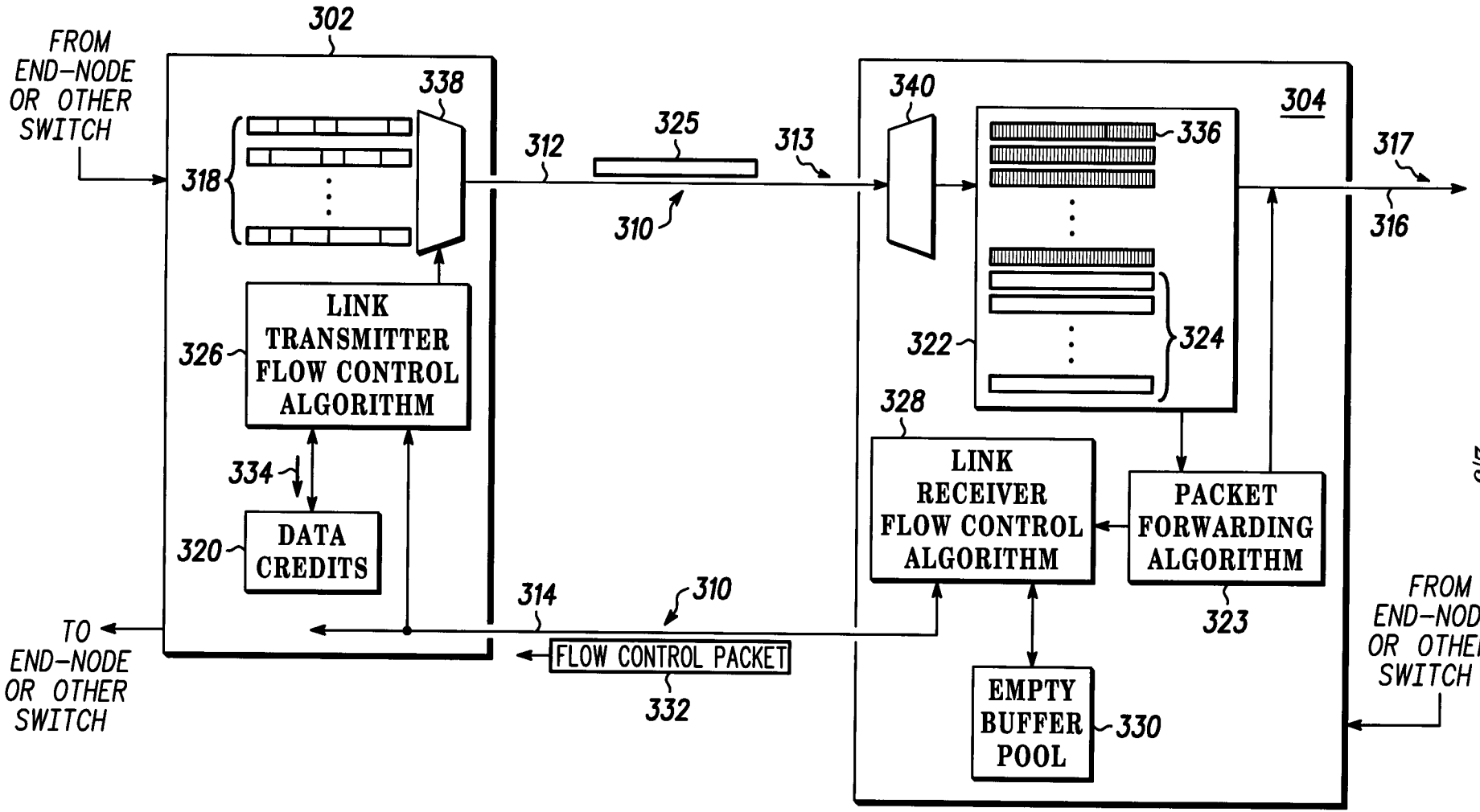
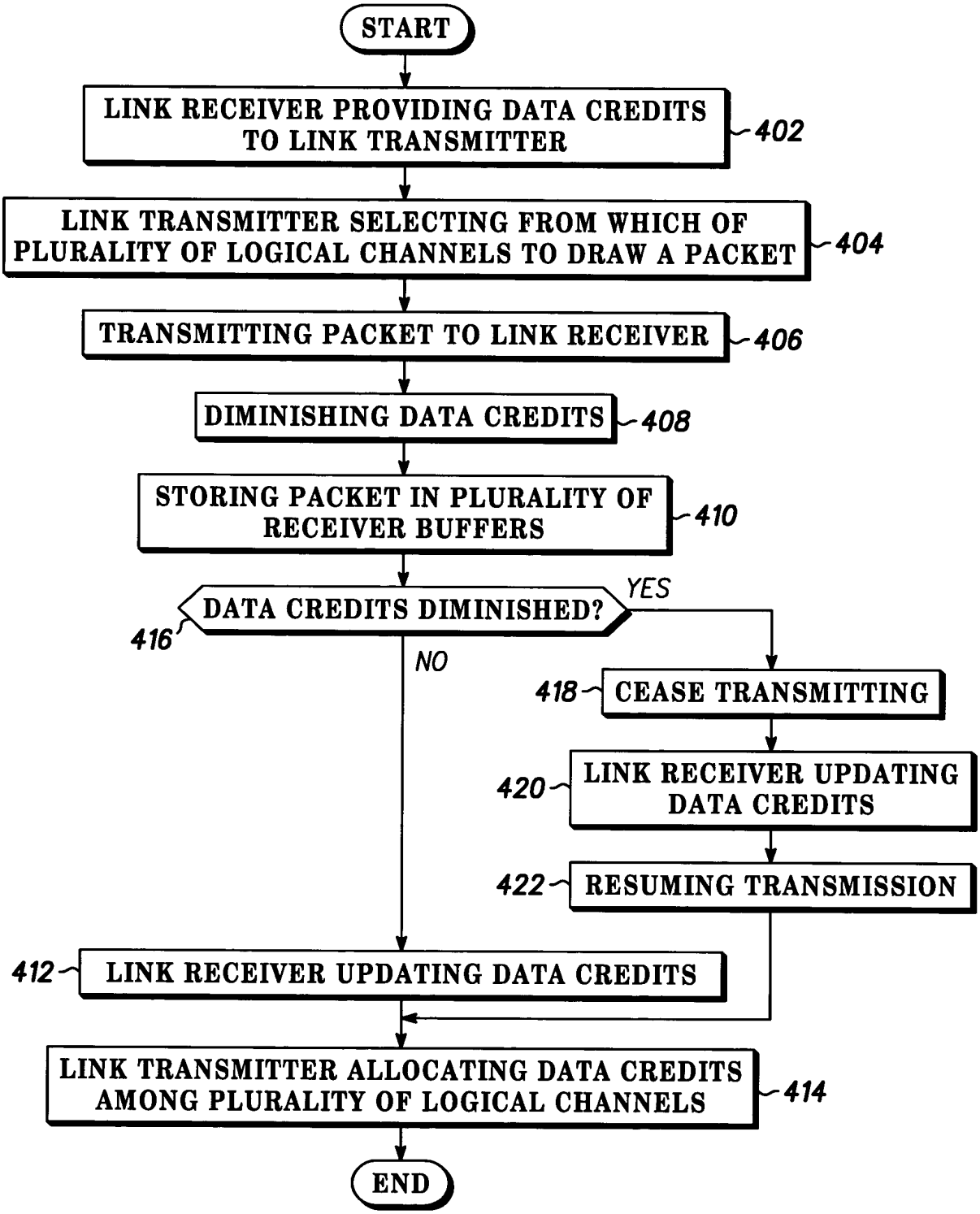

202
226
204
224
212
210
212
228
212
200
222
206
220
208

FIG. 2


FROM END-NODE OR OTHER SWITCH
302
338
318
312
325
313
340
304
336
317
310
316
LINK TRANSMITTER FLOW CONTROL ALGORITHM
326
322
324
328
LINK RECEIVER FLOW CONTROL ALGORITHM
PACKET FORWARDING ALGORITHM
334
320
DATA CREDITS
323
314
310
FROM END-NODE OR OTHER SWITCH
TO END-NODE OR OTHER SWITCH
FLOW CONTROL PACKET
332
EMPTY BUFFER POOL
330

300 FIG. 3


START
LINK RECEIVER PROVIDING DATA CREDITS TO LINK TRANSMITTER
402
LINK TRANSMITTER SELECTING FROM WHICH OF PLURALITY OF LOGICAL CHANNELS TO DRAW A PACKET
404
TRANSMITTING PACKET TO LINK RECEIVER
406
DIMINISHING DATA CREDITS
408
STORING PACKET IN PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS
410
DATA CREDITS DIMINISHED?
416
YES
NO
CEASE TRANSMITTING
418
LINK RECEIVER UPDATING DATA CREDITS
420
RESUMING TRANSMISSION
422
LINK RECEIVER UPDATING DATA CREDITS
412
LINK TRANSMITTER ALLOCATING DATA CREDITS AMONG PLURALITY OF LOGICAL CHANNELS
414
END

400

FIG. 4

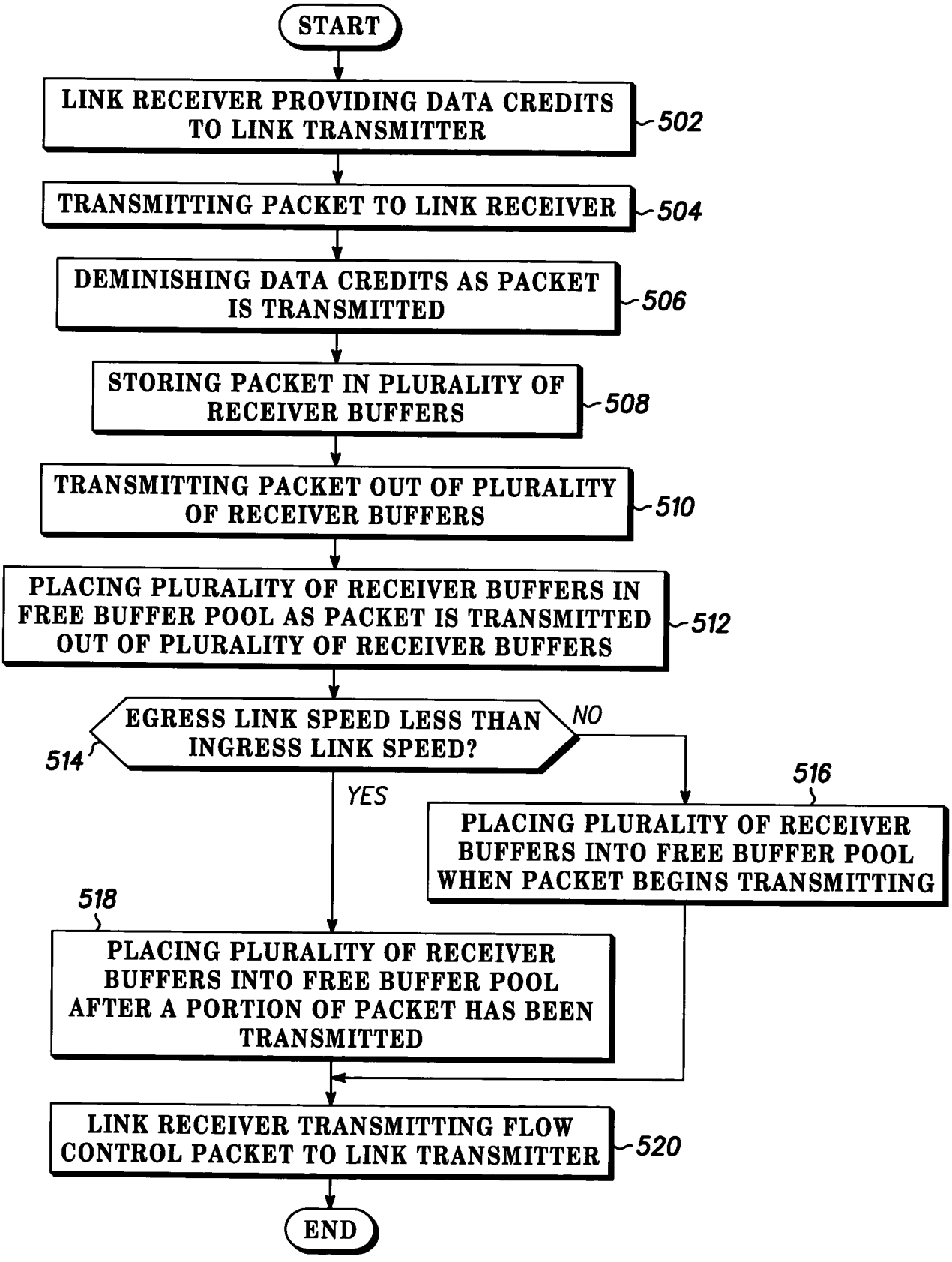
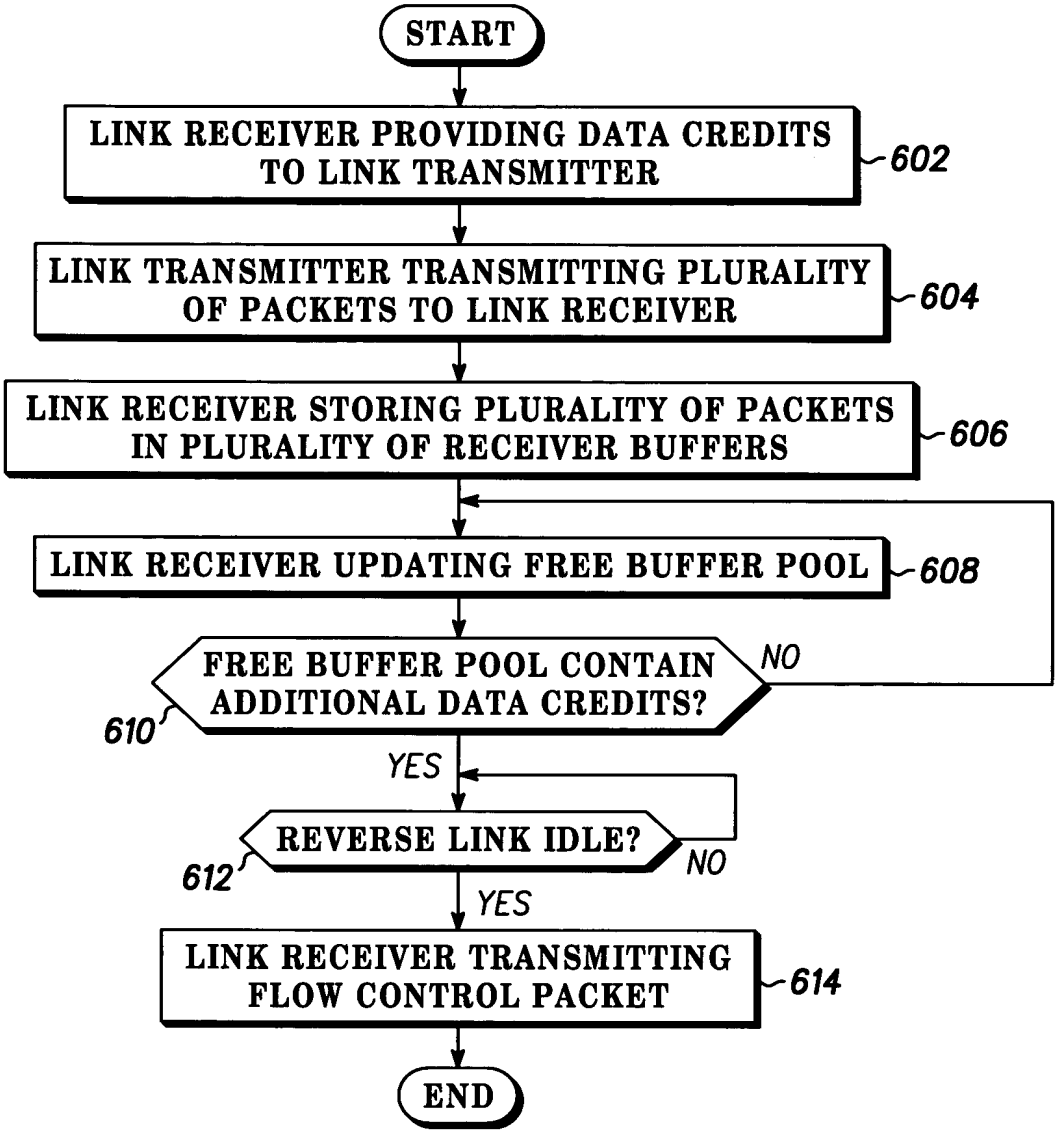

START
LINK RECEIVER PROVIDING DATA CREDITS TO LINK TRANSMITTER
502
TRANSMITTING PACKET TO LINK RECEIVER
504
DEMINISHING DATA CREDITS AS PACKET IS TRANSMITTED
506
STORING PACKET IN PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS
508
TRANSMITTING PACKET OUT OF PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS
510
PLACING PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS IN FREE BUFFER POOL AS PACKET IS TRANSMITTED OUT OF PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS
512
EGRESS LINK SPEED LESS THAN INGRESS LINK SPEED?
514
NO
YES
516
PLACING PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS INTO FREE BUFFER POOL WHEN PACKET BEGINS TRANSMITTING
518
PLACING PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS INTO FREE BUFFER POOL AFTER A PORTION OF PACKET HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED
LINK RECEIVER TRANSMITTING FLOW CONTROL PACKET TO LINK TRANSMITTER
520
END

FIG. 5 500


START
LINK RECEIVER PROVIDING DATA CREDITS TO LINK TRANSMITTER
602
LINK TRANSMITTER TRANSMITTING PLURALITY OF PACKETS TO LINK RECEIVER
604
LINK RECEIVER STORING PLURALITY OF PACKETS IN PLURALITY OF RECEIVER BUFFERS
606
LINK RECEIVER UPDATING FREE BUFFER POOL
608
FREE BUFFER POOL CONTAIN ADDITIONAL DATA CREDITS?
610
NO
YES
REVERSE LINK IDLE?
612
NO
YES
LINK RECEIVER TRANSMITTING FLOW CONTROL PACKET
614
END

600

FIG. 6